

## The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1913.

## POETRY IN THE HEART.

From the green and beautiful Northern Neck comes the clear voice of a poet who feels beyond his mastery of words. He writes: "I had, as I thought, the swellings of emotion and sentiment in heart, but when it came to expressing myself in verse I could make no headway." Then, after seeking from this humble source some light upon becoming expert enough to join The Times-Dispatch poets, he adds this piercing comment: "It occurs to me to say that it may be possible for a fellow to be a kind of a poet at least, if he has to confine himself to prose and is not able to write in rhyme."

O gentle reader (for your words prove you of the very gentlest), what can you want more than the poetry that is lived? We welcome you into the brotherhood for the poetry of your heart, even though your feet may limp as you struggle up the slopes of Parnassus. Your faith is fixed deep in eternal truth, for he is the poet who loves all that is good and beautiful in God and man, whether any rhythmic sounds ever burst from his adoration. Sometimes we think that the very greatest poets have been silent, feeling that what they would have said could never be expressed other than by the chiding of angels. Gray named that immortal clan "The mute inglorious Miltons," but we wonder whether in the end they tasted not of the truth glory deeper than their articulate comrades. Remember how far short of your dreams falls even the best splendor of poetry. You and I on the spring-veiled hills of Virginia can dwell in lyric raptures that not even Shakespeare could catch and hold fast in words.

Perhaps viewing the sylvan solitudes of King George, our fellow-poet recalled the lines of that poets' poet, lovely Keats:

A thing of beauty is a joy forever:  
 Its loveliness increases; it will never  
 Pass into nothingness; but still will  
 Keep  
 A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
 Full of sweet dreams, and health, and  
 Quiet breathing.

Perhaps he hungered to make such lines of beauty to memorialize some glint of the sun upon a winding, mossy way, and found himself helpless, as if deaf and mute. Was not the true consolation in the bower of beauty forever gathered from that moment into his own heart? Did he not recall that other line of the melodious boy: "Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter?"

Comrade, there is a tenth Muse, greater than all her sisters, and she is the patron of the beauty that hides in the heart, invisible forever, and forever inaudible.

## NINE MONTHS' COUNTRY SCHOOL.

"We ought to have nine months of free schooling for every child in the rural districts," says Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education. In a communication to the various State superintendents of public instruction, he directs attention to the present short term in country schools and appeals for a campaign by the State educational authorities to effect such a lengthening of the rural school term as will make it equal to that of the urban schools. A number of the State superintendents have already pledged their aid in a national movement to effect such a result.

In this country we are far from approximating the lowest minimum named by Dr. Claxton—a school term of 160 days. The average length of the country school term is but 128 days, or a little less than seven months. Only two States, Connecticut and Rhode Island, can point to school terms of more than nine months in country districts. Eleven others have rural school terms of between eight and nine months. They are: California, Iowa, Michigan, Maryland, Kansas, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, South Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin.

Several States are much below the seven months' average. In some of them the rural schools last but six months. Florida and Arkansas have five months' rural schools. North Carolina, South Carolina and New Mexico seem to have been supplying their country children with scarcely four and one-half months of schooling annually. North Carolina's last Legislature increased the school term to six months in the face of the fact that such a course would create an immense deficit in the State treasury. Such legislative courage and foresight is rare.

Almost all city schools, according to Dr. Claxton, are in session for nine months, 180 days or more, with trained teachers. He declares that there is no reason why country children should not have just as many days of schooling and just as efficient teachers as city children. The requirements which he would establish consist of a minimum school term for the country districts of eight or nine months (eight temporarily), a minimum qualification of four years of high school, and not less than two years of college or normal school education for country

teachers and good libraries for country schools. "With these," he asserts, "should go an effort to adjust the work of the rural schools more closely to the need of country life."

The discrimination between city and country children in the length of the school term is grossly unjust, but the need of the boys on the farms at certain seasons makes a nine-month term almost impossible under the present system. How are we to get around that difficulty? Adjust the nine months' term to meet that condition and the problem is solved.

## RICHMOND STUDYING LAND PROBLEMS.

Richmond is awaking to the fundamental problem of land and housing. The agitation for and against annexation has already achieved this praiseworthy end, whether or not it has made the real expansion of the town an immediate possibility. There is a more intelligent and straightforward interest in the laws of land values than ever before. The theory of taxation and the actual incidence of taxes are being studied with close scrutiny. The relations between municipal improvements and rents are beginning to assume real meaning to the average man. He is learning that high rents have some cause and that it behooves him to find the cause.

We should not be surprised to hear the voice of the single-taxer abroad in the land soon. The artillery will let fly volleys of new words, like "unearned increment" and "margin of rent." Henry George will get his long delayed innings in the South, just as he has everywhere else, when the rising tide of population has crept up on the unsettled area of land. That has happened here, artificially, and the result will be an investigation into some of the permanent laws of land economy.

It would be wise if this interest aroused by annexation led to a widespread understanding of land values and urban problems. For example, it is obvious that land is valuable for business or living purposes, because it has been improved, either by the city or privately, to meet the needs of the users. Many people know these simple facts, but few apply them logically. It is clear that taxes cannot be charged against all of these classes on the same basis. It is worth while finding out how they should be charged.

Another lesson slowly clearing up out of this discussion is that general laws work here, despite all petty and short-sighted opposition. In the end the dweller on land pays for exactly what he gets, both in location and improvements. He also pays for the class of neighbors he and his family associate with. This hints at another main proposition, that land values are also tangled up with social ideals and that to make things straight and just requires painful honesty and prolonged investigation.

Therefore we are glad of the present street talk on rents and houses and transportation and annexation. It means an enlightened city. It means in the end the successful solution of our troubles.

## BARRING WOMEN FROM CABS.

If common sense cannot keep street car passengers from sticking fast in the rear of the car like sardines in a box when there is plenty of room at the front, cannot the company lay down some regulations that will help matters? We make no animal versions on the service, nor reference to certain crusades in other towns where the long-suffering have rallied with the slogan: "A seat for every passenger." All we want is a judicious distribution of the passengers over the standing room. Much of the apparent congestion in Richmond cars is due to this, and this alone.

To begin with, it is not the company's fault (save, again, as they run too few cars). It is the fault of the sheep-headed human race. It is just as easy to pass up to the front and get off at the forward gate as to be walked on and get jammed thin while relentlessly holding a place in the rear. This must be admitted as an inexplicable phenomenon of man's fatuity. Yet, a few sharp suggestions by the company would prod the loiterer. It seems feasible to refuse to start the car until the congestion is relieved. It might be possible to have a door at the rear of the aisle, and make the conductor close that door, keeping everybody inside the body of the car before ringing the bell. This would keep the platform clear and force the crowd up front by mere mass. Again, the conductor could be given discretion as to starting until the passengers had moved up front.

Men can stand crowding, but of late women are forced to cling to the platform and be hustled and trampled on until the process is both dangerous and indecent. It seems that a little courtesy and consideration for women would lead most men to move up so all of the car might be available for use. Often now they look back at the persons trying to enter the car as if they were a band of invaders, who must be resisted at all cost. This is a small matter, but Richmond has a long record for courtesy and consideration to women that is worth preserving.

## A SUGGESTION TO OUR BANKS AND BANKERS.

The banks of Scott County, Kentucky, have been sending out, at the beginning of each year, beautiful and expensive calendars, just as many of the Virginia banks do. The Scott County bankers have turned over a new leaf by determining to send out no more such souvenirs, but to give the money which they would have used in that way to the Scott County Boys' Corn Club.

This will supply a total fund of about \$200, which will be distributed in cash prizes among the boys who make the best showing in the corn-growing contest. The banks will tremendously stimulate interest in this way, and their funds will be spent to

far better advantage than if invested in calendars. The patrons of the banks will not miss the calendars; there are plenty of others to be had for the asking. The average owner of a calendar cares not a rap whence he got it.

The Virginia banks generally would find it profitable to make like contributions to the corn clubs. The more luring the prizes offered the greater the number of the boys who will compete for them, and the more enduring and effective will be their efforts to make a good showing in the contests. These organizations of farmers' boys ought to be encouraged as much as possible. The corn club is the most efficient factor for increased production that we have. Increased production means increased wealth, and increased wealth means more business for the banks. The banker should be as much interested in good crops as any other man, for he is benefited directly by them.

Not only would The Times-Dispatch be glad to see the non-calendar course of the Scott County bankers followed here, but we would also urge upon our bankers and business men the desirability of having the corn club boys of the whole State meet annually in Richmond in convention as they do in Atlanta. Let them be the guests of our business men in their homes, and let them be shown every courtesy. Let them have a great parade here. Let them learn that the business men of the most prosperous city in Virginia are interested in them just as the Atlanta business men are interested in the Georgia corn club lads. Let Richmond in such a way testify to these boys its belief in the wonderful opportunity of the future farmer and in the dignity and value of his labors.

## EFFICIENCY IN CITY BUSINESS.

The ideal most in need of definition in Richmond is that of municipal efficiency. If the standard of service to be demanded of public officials, from Mayor to street sweeper, can be clearly stated to the voter, and the men most fitted to render such service pointed out, we believe the natural sense of the American people will fill our municipal offices with able workers. For this reason, it is worth while printing the findings of an efficiency survey recently undertaken by one of New York's departments. The investigation was made by the Municipal Civil Service Commission of that city, and a summary printed in the Municipal Journal.

The statement of the purpose of this survey is interesting. It was undertaken not to reduce expenses, or to cut down the working force, but to improve the office methods so that employees doing useless or inefficient work might be rendered available for other necessary tasks, hitherto left undone for lack of funds. In short, the people were to get more for their money.

To start with, 1,000 envelopes had been addressed every day by typewriter or pen. This labor was saved by substituting envelopes with transparent faces, through which the letter address is visible. Business houses use these constantly, as the bills you get show. Again, each bureau sealed and stamped its letters by hand. Many clerks were required for this work. It was recommended that all mailing work be centralized and that modern sealing and stamping machines be used. Perhaps, some hours per day might be saved at the City Hall here by a similar method. A significant reform almost on account of its insignificance is the use of sheets of small index cards for use with carbon paper in a typewriter. Instead of single cards, any stenographer can estimate the time saved in adjusting the carbon paper. Rubber stamps are to be used for indorsements previously typewritten.

More suggestive even than these mechanical economies is the effort at standardization of work. Copyists were found to vary greatly in speed. The number of minutes needed by an expert copyist for the completion of each piece of writing was measured, and a system established whereby each copyist was given credit for each day's work accomplished, and the clerks having the highest scores were recommended for advancement in salary or rank.

This last contains the meat of the whole article. It is an ideal that would save Richmond enough money to support a library and build an auditorium. Just now it is paid to inefficiency.

"The Richmond daily papers brag about their town most extravagantly. Some of their editors should come to the country occasionally, get a square meal, and see the sights," says the Gordonsville Gazette. Our motto is: see Louisa first.

What has become of the boy who made merry music with minstrel bones?

The winebibbers ought not to complain because Secretary Bryan confines himself and his dinner guests to grape juice. It only leaves that much more wine for the wine drinkers to drink.

Rule for success in South Carolina politics—be an athlete at the University of Virginia. Vide Mendel L. Smith, Speaker of the House and strong candidate for Governor—he was first baseman on the famous university nine of '92—and Richard (Dixie) S. Whaley, just elected to Congress from the Charleston district—ex-football star.

From the Sagos correspondent of the Franklin Chronicle, we are pleased to learn: "Born—to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Eames a fourteen-pound baby girl. All doing nicely." Hope Mr. J. J. has recovered fully by now.

From the look of the lads with the poles and the strings of shining perch and cat, some of Richmond's playgrounds seem to be open already.

Have you noticed that the ayater taxes just as well without the "r"?

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

The New Lid.  
 Farewell, old black slouch hat, farewell.  
 The parting brings its tears.  
 We've gazed upon your battered shape  
 For many, many years.

When battles have raged fiercest, you  
 Have been right at the front,  
 Upon a doughty warrior's head,  
 Forget you? No, we won't.

Dear to the proletariat  
 In all these years you've grown:  
 You've cheered the common people on  
 While fighting for their own.

You've humbled wealth and sordid  
 greed,  
 You've met defeat three times;  
 You've figured daily many years,  
 In gay cartoon and rhymes.

Farewell, old black slouch hat, farewell.  
 For four years you'll be hid;  
 For William Jennings Bryan has  
 A stylish new silk lid.

Dead Essay.  
 It is a cinch to operate an automobile.  
 All a man has got to do  
 is to:

See that he has enough gasoline in  
 the tank, water in the radiator and  
 oil in the car.  
 Keep the Prestolite tank and the  
 side and tail lights filled.

Full up at the right side of the  
 street, stop his engine, get out, run  
 around the car, open the door, put  
 his wife in, shut the door, run around  
 the car, get in the front seat, start  
 the engine and proceed.

Keep your eye on the speedometer,  
 another on the traffic officer, another  
 on the motor cops, another on the oil  
 drip, another on the air supply, another  
 on the children on the sidewalk  
 who are apt to run into the street  
 at any moment, another on the trees,  
 another on the throttle, another on the  
 emergency brake and still another on  
 the road ahead.

Converse pleasantly with his passengers  
 on the Darwinian theory of  
 Maelstrom's latest play and keep his  
 mind on the engine carburetor.  
 Choke back profanity under the  
 most exasperating circumstances and  
 explain every noise made by his engine.

Listen to advice from every passenger  
 and hear the tales of automobile  
 wrecks in which they have figured.

Use the diplomacy and tact of a  
 Chesterfield and the navigation prowess  
 of a Chicago river tugboat captain  
 to dodge milk wagons, bicycles,  
 moving vans, laundry wagons, pedicabs,  
 baby cabs, steam rollers, bricks,  
 tacks, glass bottles, tin cans, street  
 cars, ruts, sand piles and dogs.

For if anything happens through  
 a combination of circumstances which  
 could not be prevented by any power  
 beneath the sun, natural or supernatural,  
 through his own fault or the  
 fault of any one else within the radius  
 of a half-mile, the automobile driver  
 is to blame.

## salve.

"Take it from me," said Farmer Brown,  
 "You never kin capitalize a frown.  
 The man who gets by in bang-up  
 style  
 Is the one who is there with the glad-  
 some smile."

The best business asset for to have  
 Is a large supply of good old salve.  
 The feller with his shoes shined up  
 and neat

And a good, clean shave and a smile  
 that's sweet.  
 Is the man for business, you'll agree.  
 He kin charm a bird out'n a tree.

Of course his compliments ain't all  
 true,  
 If he spreads it on and he spreads  
 it thick.

He'll get your goat and he'll get it  
 quick.  
 If a feller comes 'round with a dark  
 brown look.

And tried to sell a new-rangled box  
 Or a vacuum cleaner or a kitchen  
 sink.

You'll show him the door, yes,  
 quicker'n a wink.  
 For we ain't got time for the grouchy  
 frown.

And the feller who wears it'll git  
 turned down.  
 The feller who work'll win after  
 awhile.

But you'll get there quicker if you  
 work and smile."

Reincarnation.  
 Reincarnation is a thing  
 That's talked of more and more  
 And many people now believe  
 That they have lived before.

The ultimate consumer, now  
 We feel constrained to note,  
 Must have been on earth once be-  
 fore.

And then he was a goat.

## FLIES!

Horse manure is the principal  
 hatching place for flies.

It can be made sterile with coal  
 oil, carbolic acid, copperas water or  
 dry lye by mixing thoroughly.

Horsemen, stablemen, owners of  
 horses and sanitary inspectors, pay  
 attention! Cut this out.

Let 1913 be a flyless year.

## Abe Martin

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## A STERILIZED NEWSPAPER.

(Senator Works has introduced in the senate a bill requiring newspapers to omit news of accidents, tragedies, and crimes.)

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1913, By John T. McCutcheon.)

## The Daily Pure News Report

STERILIZED ACCORDING TO THE PURE NEWS LAW.

## EDITOR'S NOTE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
 THE LAW, ALL NEWS OF  
 ACCIDENTS, TRAGEDIES  
 AND CRIMES, IS SUP-  
 PRESSED.

OUR CIRCULATION STATE-  
 MENT IS THEREFORE OM-  
 ITTED. IT IS TRAGIC.

ALL SUBSCRIBERS DESIRING INFORMATION ABOUT MURDERS, ROBBERIES, BANDITS, DIVORCES, SCANDALS, VICE INVESTIGATIONS, WHITE SLAVE NOTICES, HANGINGS, CRIMES OF A TRAGIC SORT, RIOTS, TANGO, NEWPORT, ASSASSINATIONS, AND ACCIDENTS, WILL TELEPHONE THE CITY.

EDITOR OF THE PURE NEWS REPORT FOR FULL PARTICULARS.

MOST NEWS OF A POLITICAL SORT IS SUPPRESSED BECAUSE MOST POLITICIANS ARE ACCIDENTS.

WAR NEWS WILL BE PRINTED ONLY WHEN IT IS NOT TRAGIC.

NO REFERENCE TO THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION OF 1912, IS ALLOWED. IT WAS A CRIME.

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